IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with <u>underlining</u> and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. When strikethrough cannot easily be perceived, or when five or fewer characters are deleted, [[double brackets]] are used to show the deletion. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered). Please amend claims 1, 4, 9, 10, 12 and 14-25 in accordance with the following:

1.   (currently amended) A terminal comprising:

a period reader reading a requestable calendar sales period of time stored on an individual self contained computer readable content medium, the content medium indicating the requestable calendar sales period of time during which a content on the content medium can be served <u>and sold</u>;

a present calendar time data generator generating present calendar time data indicating a present calendar time;

a comparator comparing the requestable calendar sales period of time with the present calendar time; a requestor for submitting a request when said comparator judges that the present calendar time falls within the requestable calendar sales period of time, to a center for obtaining use of the content.

2.   (previously presented) A terminal according to claim 1, further comprising: a single medium, forming the content medium, storing a plurality of locked contents, each locked content provided with a locked content requestable calendar sales period thereof; and

a key receiver for receiving a key for unlocking the locked content.

3.   (previously presented) A terminal according to claim 1, wherein said server submits a request to a center when the present calendar time falls within the requestable calendar sales period of time.

4.   (currently amended) A sales system comprising:

a terminal comprising:

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a period reader reading a requestable calendar sales period of time stored on a self contained independent computer readable content medium indicating the requestable calendar sales period of time during which a content can be served and sold by submitting a request to a center;

a present calendar time generator for generating present calendar time data indicating a present calendar time;

a comparator comparing the requestable calendar sales period of time with the present calendar time; and

a requestor submitting a request to a center for obtaining use of the content when said comparator judges that the present calendar time falls within the requestable calendar sales period of time; and

the center comprising:

a key supplier supplying said terminal with a key for unlocking the content when the present calendar time falls within the requestable calendar sales period of time.

5.   (previously presented) A sales system according to claim 4, wherein said center further comprises a database registered with the requestable calendar sales period of time of the content.

6.   (previously presented) A terminal according to claim 1, wherein said terminal further comprises a second comparator comparing an requestable calendar sales period of time with the present calendar time and determining whether the present calendar time is within the requestable calendar sales period of time.

7.   (previously presented) A terminal according to claim 2, wherein said terminal further comprises:

a disk for storing the contents; and

an installer installing a loader for the content.

8.   (previously presented) A sales system according to claim 4, further comprising:

a period data changer changing period data indicating a serving period of the contents; and

wherein said terminal further comprising:

a second comparator comparing the requestable calendar sales period of time with the serving period and determining whether the serving period lies within the requestable calendar sales period of time.

9.   (currently amended) A self contained computer readable storage medium which contains locked content, a requestable calendar sales period concerning the locked content, and a program executed by a computer,

wherein said program:

reads the requestable calendar sales period of time;

generates present calendar time data indicating a present calendar time;

compares the requestable calendar sales period of time with the present

calendar time;

judges that the present calendar time data falls within said requestable calendar sales period or falls outside the requestable calendar sales period of time; and

requests to a center for obtaining use of the locked content when the present calendar time falls within said requestable calendar sales period of time; and

uses a key to unlock, serve and sell the locked content stored thereon when the present calendar time falls within said requestable calendar sales period of time.

10.   (currently amended) A self contained computer readable storage medium including both locked content and a requestable calendar sales period of time concerning the locked content, the storage device is accessed by a computer,

wherein said computer:

reads the requestable calendar sales period of time;

generates present calendar time data indicating a present calendar time;

compares the requestable calendar sales period of time with the present

calendar time;

judges that the present calendar time data falls within the requestable calendar sales period of time or falls outside of said requestable calendar sales period of time; and

uses a key to unlock the locked content stored thereon when the present calendar time falls within said requestable calendar sales period of time to allow access to, serve and sell the locked content if the judging determines the present calendar time data falls within said requestable calendar sales period of time.

11.   (previously presented) A storage device according to claim 9, wherein the requestable calendar sales period of time is written as single terminal data indicating starting or ending calendar sales time interval.

12.   (previously presented) A self-contained computer-readable medium encoded with a computer program which performs the following functions:

reads a requestable calendar sales period of time, stored on the computer-readable medium, indicating a calendar period of time during which a locked content on the medium can be served and sold;

generates present calendar time data indicating a present calendar time;

compares the requestable calendar sales period of time with the present calendar time;

judges that the present calendar time falls within the requestable calendar sales period of time or falls outside of said requestable calendar sales period of time; and

sends a requestor to request a key for the locked content if the judging determines the present calendar time data falls within said requestable calendar sales period of time, to a center for obtaining use of the locked content.

13.   (currently amended) A terminal comprising:

a reading device which reads a requestable calendar sales period of time, stored on a self contained computer readable content medium indicating the requestable calendar sales period of time during which a locked content stored on the content medium can be served and sold;

a clock for indicating a present calendar time;

a comparator which determines if the present calendar time falls within the requestable calendar sales period of time; and

a requestor for submitting a request for a key for the locked content on the content medium when the comparator determines that the present calendar time falls within the requestable calendar sales period of time, to a center for obtaining use of the locked content.

14.   (currently amended) A sales system comprising:

a self contained independent computer readable content medium storing a locked content and a requestable calendar sales period of time for the locked content; and

a center which provides a key to unlock, serve and sell the locked content when a present calendar time falls within the requestable calendar sales period of time.;

15.   (currently amended) A method for ascertaining a sales period exists, said method comprising:

reading a requestable calendar sales period of time stored on a self contained independent computer readable medium indicating a serving calendar period of time;

generating present calendar time data indicating a present calendar time;

comparing the requestable calendar sales period of time stored on the medium with the present calendar time to judge whether said present calendar time falls within the requestable calendar sales period of time; and

requesting a key from a center to obtain serve and sell the locked content when the comparing determines that the present calendar time falls within the requestable calendar sales period of time.

16.   (currently amended) A storage device readable by a computer comprising:

a storer storing a locked content on a self contained independent computer readable storage medium, the medium including a requestable calendar sales period of time concerning the locked content and a program executed by the computer, wherein said program:

reads the requestable calendar sales period of time;

generates present calendar time data indicating a present calendar time;

compares the requestable calendar sales period of time with the present calendar time;

an accessor accessing said program; and

using a requestor for submitting a request for a key when the requestable calendar sales period of time is compared with the present calendar time and it is determined that the present calendar time falls within said requestable calendar sales period of time, the request made to a center for ~~obtaining~~ serving and selling use of the locked content..

17.   (currently amended) A self contained independent computer readable storage medium comprising:

a locked content stored on the medium assessable by a user via a computer;

a requestable calendar sales period of time data stored with the locked content on the medium indicating a requestable calendar sales period of time during which the locked content can be accessed by the user;

a program which causes the computer to refuse access to the locked content by the user if a present calendar date falls outside of the requestable calendar sales period of time indicated by the requestable calendar sales period of time data; and

a requesting unit for submitting a request for a key when said program does not cause the computer to refuse access to the locked content, the request submitted to a center for ~~obtaining~~ serving and selling use of the locked content.

18.   (curently amended) A computer-readable storage medium encoded with a computer program which performs the following operations:

reads a requestable calendar sales period of time, stored on a disk, indicating the requestable calendar sales period of time during which a locked content on the disk can be served and sold;

generates present calendar time data indicating a present calendar time;

compares the requestable calendar sales period of time with the present calendar time; and

transforms a result of said comparison to data reflecting that a user is allowed to utilize the locked content, when the present calendar time falls within the requestable calendar sales period of time; and

requests a center for a key to obtain use of the locked content when said comparing step determines that said present calendar time falls within said requestable calendar sales period of time.

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19.   (currently amended) A method for ascertaining a sales period exists, said method comprising:

reading a requestable calendar sales period of time stored on a self contained computer readable storage medium indicating an requestable calendar sales period of time;

generating present calendar time data indicating a present calendar time;

comparing the requestable calendar sales period of time stored on the medium with the present calendar time to judge whether said present calendar time falls within the requestable calendar sales period of time; and

requesting a center for a key to obtain serve and sell use of a locked content stored on the medium storing the requestable calendar sales period of time to a storage medium when said comparing determines that said present calendar time falls within said requestable calendar sales period of time.

20.   (currently amended) A terminal comprising:

a period reader reading a requestable calendar sales period of time stored on a self contained independent content medium indicating the requestable calendar sales period of time during which a locked content stored directly on the content medium released to end users can be served and sold;

a present calendar time data generator generating present calendar time data indicating a present calendar time;

a comparator comparing the requestable calendar sales period of time with the present calendar time; and

a requestor for submitting a request for a key to access the locked content when said comparator judges that the present calendar time falls within the requestable calendar sales period of time.

21.   (currently amended) A terminal comprising:

a period reader reading a requestable calendar sales period of time stored on a self contained independent content medium indicating the requestable calendar sales period of time during which a locked content stored directly on the content medium can be served and sold;

a present calendar time data generator generating present calendar time data indicating a present calendar time;

a comparator comparing the requestable calendar sales period of time with the present calendar time; and

a requesting unit requesting a key for a service of the locked content when said comparator judges that the present calendar time falls within the requestable calendar sales period of time.

22.   (currently amended) An independent self contained computer readable storage medium released to end users which contains locked content, a requestable calendar sales period of time concerning the locked content, and a program executed by a computer, wherein said program:

reads the requestable calendar sales period directly from the storage medium;

generates present calendar time data indicating a present calendar time;

compares the requestable calendar sales period of time with the present calendar time;

judges that the present calendar time data falls within said requestable calendar sales period of time or falls outside the requestable calendar sales period of time; and

requests a key from a center to ~~obtain~~ serve and sell use of the locked content if the judging judges that the present calendar time falls within said requestable calendar sales period of time.

23.   (currently amended) A self contained computer readable storage medium readable by a computer comprising:

a storer storing a locked content on the medium including a requestable calendar sales period of time concerning the locked content and a program executed by the computer, wherein said program:

reads the requestable calendar sales period of time;

generates present calendar time data indicating a present calendar time; and

compares the requestable calendar sales period of time with the present calendar time;

~~an accessor accessing~~accesses said program; and

a requesting unit requestingrequests a key for service and sellling of the locked content when the requestable calendar sales period of time is compared with the present calendar time and it is determined that the present calendar time falls within said requestable calendar sales period of time.

24.   (currently amended) A computer-readable storage medium encoded with a computer program which performs the following operations:

reads a requestable calendar sales period of time, stored on a disk, indicating the requestable calendar sales period of time during which a locked content on the disk can be served and sold;

generates present calendar time data indicating a present calendar time;

compares the requestable calendar sales period of time with the present calendar time; and

transforms a result of said comparison to data reflecting that a user is allowed to utilize the locked content, when the present calendar time falls within the requestable calendar sales period of time; and

requests the locked content when said comparing step determines that said present calendar time falls within said requestable calendar sales period of time.

25.   (currently amended) A method for ascertaining whether a sales period exists, said method comprising:

reading a requestable calendar sales period of time stored on a self contained computer readable storage medium indicating the requestable calendar sales period of time during which the computer readable storage medium can be accessedserved and sold;

generating present calendar time data indicating a present calendar time;

comparing the requestable calendar sales period of time stored on the storage medium with the present calendar time to judge whether said present calendar time falls within the requestable calendar sales period of time; and

requesting a key for retrieval of a locked content stored on the storage medium when said comparing determines that said present calendar time falls within said requestable calendar sales period of time.